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made it the nucleus of a colony to which he sent other emancipated negroes.

The author, moreover, makes certain statements which cannot be easily proved. Referring to the maritime slave trade, he says that "the food if coarse was plenteous and wholesome and the sanitation was fairly adequate." The best authorities do not support this contention. On page 306 he contends that in the actual régime severity was clearly the exception and kindness the rule on the plantation but supports his contention largely with the observations of two travelers, one of whom spoke of what he observed in all the slave states and the other who gave his observation of the situation in Virginia, where slavery was always of a mild form. The author tries also to minimize the prevalence of cases of slave women purchased by white men for purposes of concubinage and supports his contention with the assertion that in scanning thousands of bills of sale they exhibit little or no evidence to this effect (p. 194). An historian should not expect records of this sort to exhibit such evidence. While there were many white men who did not live above this reproach, the standard of morals among the majority was such that no purchaser would make a record of his desire to indulge in such a vice and the auctioneer would not always embarrass him by declaration to this effect. The reviewer has interviewed numbers of women of color, who assert that they were purchased and used for this base purpose.

While this book then is valuable because of the facts it contains, we must expect some other writer interested in this field to use these and other facts to set forth exactly what the institution was in its development from stage to stage and in its final form when it was exterminated by the civil war.

C. G. WOODSON

*Lincoln, the politician.* By T. Aaron Levy. (Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1918. 236 p. \$1.50)

Why is it that everyone who essays a contribution to Lincoln literature must needs make an addition to the vast bulk of worse than mediocre Lincoln biography? For such is this volume covering Lincoln's career through the election of 1856. Here in the same old eulogistic strain is a sixteen-chapter portrayal of the development of "the wisest politician in American history"; no wonder the reviewer of *Lincolniana* becomes more inclined to move the abolition of the superlative degree! Perhaps, however, one should display the same patience that the author applied to the task of culling his materials from the ever-expanding storehouse. Not that he has always chosen well and not that he has succeeded in presenting a well-knit synthesis. At times he would have profited from a more thorough study of the political background; of course "the Whig

and Democratic parties were little recognized in Indiana'' (p. 22) in 1824, but other regions had as little acquaintance. Throughout the book the author fails to recognize the social and economic implications of the whig and democratic parties and what Lincoln's affiliation with the whigs meant. We are told that he "belonged to the Federal party by instinct" (p. 17). But how explain political connections that made him subject to the charge, as Lincoln himself said in 1843, that "I (a stranger, friendless, uneducated, penniless boy, working on a flatboat at ten dollars per month) have been set down as the candidate of pride, wealth, and aristocratic family traditions." (See *Writings of Lincoln*, federal edition, 1:317). When will an inspired interpreter illuminate Lincoln's early political affiliations by the light of whig origins in the west?

A. C. COLE

*The voice of Lincoln.* By R. M. Wanamaker. (New York: Charles Scribner's sons, 1918. 363 p. \$2.50 net)

The author of this latest Lincoln book, Judge Wanamaker of the supreme court of Ohio, has long been an advocate of the idea that our schools should make more of the study of some of our great men, especially Lincoln. This book seems to have been written to show how such a study might be made profitable. The book, therefore, is not a biography nor can it be termed a character study; rather the author tries to let Lincoln reveal himself. At least this is the intention and purpose of the book. The author's thesis is to find out how Lincoln thought, what his mental methods were, how he developed his great efficiency in law, logic, language, and leadership. Lincoln himself, as far as possible, is permitted to answer the questions of the thesis.

The author first shows that Lincoln had two fundamental passions, the passion for knowledge and the passion for justice, both of which manifested themselves in his childhood and continued to be the underlying basis of his life and work. The companions of Lincoln's young manhood thought him lazy because he had a marked dislike for manual labor, but we are told by those who knew him that from a mental standpoint he was one of the most energetic young men of his day. Lincoln taught himself to write by writing compositions on various subjects and by learning every fine passage which he came across in his reading.

No passion of Lincoln's life was stronger than his passion for knowledge, save his passion for justice. Judge Wanamaker in his discussion of this passion of Lincoln's states that all the attributes associated with the attribute of justice were a part of Lincoln's nature, such as gentleness, helpfulness, gratitude, truthfulness, and honesty. The books he first studied all taught him these great qualities: the bible, *Pilgrim's*